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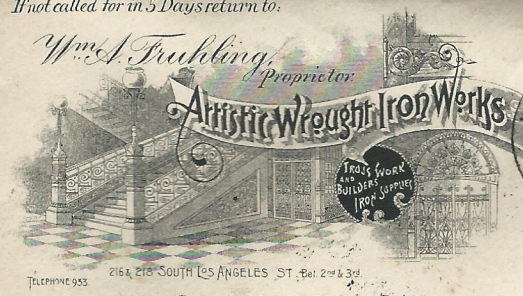

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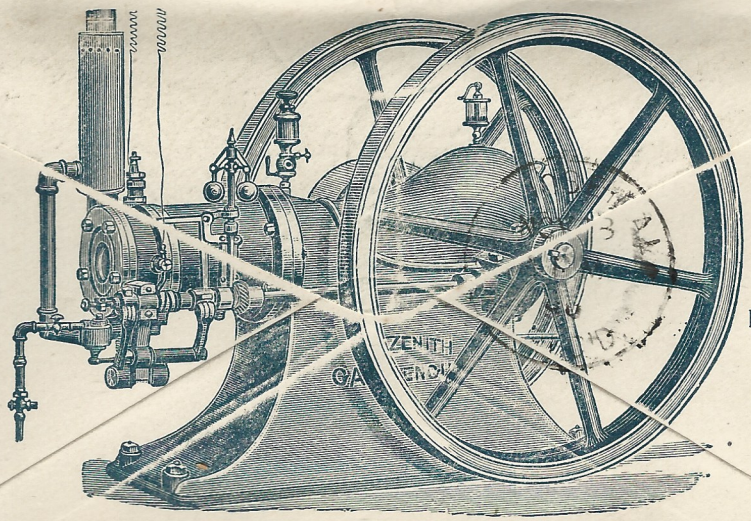

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Dear Mother;

I imagine that you think it is time for me to take another streak of letter-writing. I ought to have done so long ago, but as I had no particularly good news to write, I constantly put it off, neither have I now anything of great interest to write, but never the less I will send you a few lines.

Probably the most interesting thing that I can say, you have already heard from Mr. Wilke. While it may have been a surprise to you, it is something that I knew would come about when the proper conditions were brought about. No doubt Mr. Wilke told you I was to see him etc. I did not see him to satisfy myself as to my own self, but as to the members of the church. I told him just what I thought, and as he said I was eligible to membership, I consented to join

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Since writing the above lines I received your letter. I knew you would like to hear from me personally, so I started a letter, but the unpleasant thoughts, which always come to my mind when I think seriously of those things, kept me from finishing my letter. Neither will I say much now for fear I may say something which would do neither you any good, but I will say that although this year opened and passed away very hard and unfavorably, yet after all I can see that I can use all experiences to my advantage.

Well, at this third beginning thanksgiving is over. No doubt you all had a very pleasant time. I am sure we did, especially the church services were of particular value. We also had a good dinner etc. George took our pictures etc. After dinner we each went to different places, as I think George was a little lonesome, but of course he

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will have to become used to those things,
like the rest of us.

I do not know why it is, but this has been the hardest letter I ever wrote, I do not know whether George told you what I about my going home this Christmas. Mamma and Sister are expect me etc, and I would like to go, but as things are at present, I can not say when I will go home. I would rather disappoint you now, than at Christmas, because a disappointment is not the best means towards a Merry Christmas. Well, I will have to close, with love from all to all. Your Son Ed.

Business is at a standstill all around, but good prospects.